**Africa RISING Program Coordination Team**

**External review recommendations that require further action by PCT** 18 May 2020

* External review report download link - <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/108031>

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| **Nr** | **Recommendation** | **Response** | | **Responsible for implementation/**  **follow-up** | **Need for extra funds?** | **Priority (high, medium, low)** | **Not feasible/**  **Not relevant/**  **underway** | **Additional comments** |
| **Short** | **Context** |
| **1. Organizational structure** | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2-A | Program leaders should target cross-project harmonization efforts toward highest potential outcomes | Accepted | This is already happening, and more efforts will be invested in future to further enhance this. For example, last year (2019) there was a cross regional-exchange visit to Ghana followed by a workshop to identify cross-regional research publications on 5 themes which are now at different stages of development. | Project managers – Irmgard and Peter - with support from the PCT. | This could require some extra funds where some ‘common activities’ are absent in certain locations | High |  |  |
| 1.3-A | The PCT should continue to promote harmonized operational arrangements to ensure program-wide delivery of outputs, outcomes and impacts | Accepted | This is already happening. But there is always room for improvement, and more will be done. | PCT, with support from the project managers | No need for extra funds | High | Underway | IFPRI team will replicate what is being done for Ghana with USAID for each of the other AR countries. |
| 1.4-C | The PCT should assess the effectiveness of the M&E Team’s integration with other AR program functions and identify / implement course corrections | Accepted | An important recommendation. The M&E team to discuss this issue further and present some further actions to the PCT. | Carlo to discuss this recommendation with the M&E team to develop actionable suggestions for addressing this recommendation. | This could require some extra funds for collecting extra M&E data | High | Underway | Instead of bi-weekly meetings, DC-based staff will hold weekly virtual meetings with M&E officers and will coordinate with regional projects to organize more trainings for M&E officers and researchers. M&E officers will be required to travel to countries outside their duty station on a regular basis, the cost of which will be covered as part of the reallocated funds. A communication channel (MS Teams) has been created to facilitate communication b/n DC-based staff and local M&E officers. |
| 1.4-D | Candidly revisit the mandate and functioning of Project Steering Committees | Accepted | The relevance and value addition/proposition of the project steering committees to be reviewed by the PCT and a decision made at the next meeting. | PCT | No need for extra funds | High |  | Irmgard to share minutes and the ToRs of the two project steering committees in ESA and WA for review by PCT members.  ------------  I wonder whether the PCT can make decisions affecting the SCs - Irmgard |
| **2. Data Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning** | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4-B | Assess the AR program’s progress toward integration of agricultural and socioeconomic domains in the context of similar programs | Accepted | Good recommendation, but it is not easy to implement and would require further thoughts to develop concrete action points. | Mateete, Kindu and Fred, with support from PCT | This could require some extra funds to collect SIAF data | High |  |  |
| **4. Research achievements** | | | | | | | | |
| 4.4-C | Leverage existing data streams to better quantify AR potential for enhancing household income and reducing hunger and poverty | Accepted | This is certainly a high priority recommendation that is critical to Africa RISING systems research work. Currently there is some work being implemented by Carlo and Jerry in Ghana that will provide some insights to this. Other countries to be included later. The PCT will also hold further discussions about how to mainstream the effective use of the SIAF framework. | Carlo | Should be or rather become part of business as usual. | High | Underway | Goes back to the SIAF  The study by Jerry and Carlo on how farmers are moving the sustainable intensification. IFPRI will expand the Ghana work to the other target countries and develop a cross-country synthesis report. |
| 4.5-A | Better articulate in AR reporting the actual and potential roles of women | Accepted | It is true that across board participation of women is low in the program. Africa RISING needs to make a plan on how to improve this working through the gender specialists at project level. Also, more effort needs to be put on documentation of the women's involvement. | PCT Chair (Boni) to request Gundula and other gender specialists within the program to review this recommendation and develop actions that Africa RISING can take on this.  Kindu and Peter are also in the process of developing specific gender studies for AR Ethiopia and will provide an update on this. | No | High |  | If we were consistently applying the SIAF then this would come out expressly. |
| 4.5-B | Develop an improved inventory and description of women-only research groups and gender-responsive modifications of AR technologies | Accepted | To also be addressed by the gender specialists together with recommendation 4.5 A | Same as recommendation 4.5 A | We would need to prioritize funding during the next planning phases. | High |  |  |
| 4.7-A | Systematically document hypotheses and evidence related to technology adoption and scaling | Accepted | The program has made efforts to address this. It is however still not well embedded in the program’s activities. There is opportunity for doing some case studies that would generate evidence and then we use those. This is linked back to the end-line and associated studies/surveys that will be done by the M&E team. | Carlo and the M&E team | We would need to prioritize funding during the next planning phases. | Medium |  | The Africa RISING – NAFAKA is doing this, so this project provides a strong opportunity to learn from..Under the guidance of IFPRI, local M&E officers will work with researchers and their development partners to document alternative scaling strategies to feed into cross-regional synthesis report. IFPRI will continue its collaboration with researchers to expand ex ante evaluations of the effects of validated AR technologies. |
| **5. Alignment with donor and country development strategies** | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1-A | Collaborate with Washington DC-based USAID partners to identify entry points in national policy and at USAID country-based Missions for scaling AR-generated knowledge and technologies | Accepted | There is a deliberate effort by the project to interact with various country level missions. We will continue with this. For the DC based partners Jerry to provide further advice on this. | Project managers, chief scientists and seek further advice from Jerry. | Integrate in on-going processes  We need a good buy in from country missions | High |  |  |